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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7116
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE 0219
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS SKOPJE 000157

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STATE FOR EUR/SCE, EUR/RPM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [MK](#)

SUBJECT: MACEDONIA COMMITTED SUPPORTING ISAF

REF: SECSTATE 19516

(SBU) The Government of Macedonia (GOM) is committed to supporting NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Macedonia has pledged to send an Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT) to Afghanistan, and recently doubled its ISAF deployments to over 130 troops. The Macedonian company currently providing ISAF HQs protection also includes a UK platoon under its command, a reflection of the high regard other Allies have for Macedonian troops and their leaders. In addition to its increased contributions in Afghanistan, Macedonia recently doubled its troop commitments to Iraq, adding another Special Forces platoon to operations there in response to a direct USG request. These generous commitments place Macedonia at the upper limit of its current contributing capacity, although the government is planning to increase its overseas troop commitments in the future, with a full battalion prepared for deployment by 2010. As PM Gruevski recently assured a visiting U.S. House NATO Parliamentary Delegation visiting Skopje, "Macedonia can be counted on for current and future missions" such as ISAF in Afghanistan.
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